

Message Text

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16

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 IO-10 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

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R 170750Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1890

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

S E C R E T JIDDA 5089

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, IZ, SA, PINS, PBOR, PFOR

SUBJECT: SAUDI-IRAQI DISCUSSIONS DURING ISLAMIC FOREIGN MINISTERS
CONFERENCE

SUMMARY:

MINISTRY OF INTERIOR SAYS IRAQI FORNIM ASKED PRINCE FAHD
FOR 500 MILLION DOLLARS IN SAUDI AID (IN ADDITION TO 250 MILLION
DOLLARS
WHICH SUPPOSEDLY ALREADY GIVEN). IRAQIS SUPPORTED IDEA OF A GULF
SECURITY CONFERENCE, BUT SAG REMAINED COOL. SAG PLEASED AT IRAQ'S
ATTENDANCE OF ISLAMIC FONMIN'S CONFERENCE, AND ITS CESSATION OF ALL
RADIO ATTACKS; BUT IT HAS RESERVATIONS ABOUT IRAQ'S
PERFORMANCE AND INTENTIONS OVER LONG RUN. IRAQIS SUPPOSEDLY TOLD
JORDANIANS THEY WOULD NOT RPT NOT STOP ASSISTANCE TO PDRY OR TO
DHOFAR REBELS. END SUMMARY.

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1. ON JULY 15, SHAIKH MAHMOUD BABAN FORMER IRAQI ROYALIST

MINISTER AND NOW ADVISOR IN SAUDI MINISTRY OF INTERIOR, TOLD DCM THAT DURING ISLAMIC FOREIGN MINISTERS CONFERENCE IRAQI FORNMIN SA'ADUN HAMMADI HAD HAD THREE MEETINGS WITH CROWN PRINCE FAHD. THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THESE MEETINGS WAS TO ASK FOR \$500 MILLION IN SAUDI AID, IN ADDITION TO THE \$250 MILLION WHICH BABAN SAID SAG HAD PREVIOUSLY GIVEN IRAQ. IRAQIS ALSO SOUGHT TO PERSUADE SAG OF THE MERITS OF A GULF SECURITY CONFERENCE, AND SOME SORT OF A GULF SECURITY AGREEMENT. SAUDI SIDE REMAINED COOL AND EVASIVE TOWARD THIS SUGGESTION (JIDDA'S 4843) ASKING FOR WHOM AND AGAINST WHOM WOULD SUCH AN AGREEMENT WORK? SAUDIS SAID THEY COULD SEE NO HOSTILE AGENCY ON THE HORIZON AGAINST WHOM SUCH A TREATY WOULD BE OPERATIVE. BABAN SAID THAT SAG WAS INTERESTED TO NOTE THAT IRANIAN DELEGATION ALSO HAD EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR SUCH A SECURITY CONFERENCE. IT WAS HIS GUESS THAT IRAQ FAVORED THE GULF SECURITY AGREEMENT, BECAUSE IT WOULD REMOVE THE MILITARY FORCES OF MAJOR POWERS FROM THE GULF, AND IRAN WOULD THEREFORE BE UNQUESTIONABLY THE NUMBER ONE FORCE IN THAT AREA. HE FURTHER CONJECTURED THAT IRAQ LIKED THE IDEA OF SUCH AN AGREEMENT, AS A MEANS OF ORGANIZING A BLOCK OF ARAB SUPPORT FOR ITSELF IN THE EVENT OF ANY PRESSURE OR THREAT FROM IRAN.

2. BABAN SAID THAT SAUDIS HAD SOUGHT SOME ASSURANCES FROM IRAQIS THAT THEY WOULD CEASE THEIR FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO PDRY, AND DHOFARI REBELS. BABAN HAD NO COMMENT AS TO THE IRAQI RESPONSE, BUT HE SAID THAT WHEN THIS SAME SUBJECT HAD ARISEN RECENTLY IN AMMAN BETWEEN KING HUSSEIN AND VISITING IRAQI FONMIN HAMMADI, IRAQIS HAD AFFIRMED THEY WOULD NEVER CUT BACK THEIR SUPPORT TO THE GULF RADICALS. BABAN SAID GOJ HAD PROVIDED SAG WITH A TAPE RECORDING OF THE IRAQI FONMIN'S ASSERTION.

3. BABAN WONDERED WHETHER THE GOI IN FACT MIGHT FEEL ESPECIALLY COMPELLED TO KEEP UP ITS RADICAL ACTIVITIES OVERSEAS AS A MEANS OF KEEPING ITS LEFT-WING CREDENTIALS IN ORDER, AT A TIME WHEN IT WAS DELIBERATELY MOVING TOWARD SOMEWHAT MORE PRAGMATIC POLICIES AT HOME. THE SAG HE SAID WAS PLEASED TO SEE THE RESTORATION OF SOMETHING LIKE NORMAL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH IRAQ, ITS PARTICIPATION

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IN THE ISLAMIC FOREIGN MINISTERS CONFERENCE, AND IN THE CESSATION OF ALL OVERT AND CLANDESTINE RADIO ATTACKS AGAINST THE KINGDOM. OVER THE LONG RUN HOWEVER, BABAN SAID THE SAG WONDERED HOW FAR A REGIME LIKE IRAQ'S COULD MOVE IN THE DIRECTION OF PRAGMATISM WITHOUT UNDERMINING WHAT PASSED FOR ITS OWN LEGITIMACY AND PRINCIPLES. FOR THIS REASON HE SAID, THE SAG WELCOMED THE PRESENT TREND IN RELATIONS, BUT WOULD CONTINUE CAREFULLY TO WATCH THE GOI'S BEHAVIOR

AT HOME, AND PARTICULARLY IN THE GULF.

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